

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 STR-08 SP-03 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 SS-20

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /131 W

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P R 021931Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7573

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD BB

SUBJ: INVENTORY OF CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 165350

1. INVENTORY OF CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS (REFTEL PARA 3)
COVERS ABLY AND CONCISELY PRINCIPAL MATTERS DISCUSSED AT
APRIL BRIDGETOWN MEETING. WHILE WE HAVE NOT HAD TIME FOR
THOROUGH REVIEW, OUR BRIEF COMMENTS CONCERN RELATIVELY MINOR
POINTS WHICH NEVERTHELESS MAY ADD TO OVERALL CARICOM-U.S.
TRADE PICTURE.

2. UNDER PARA 3(B), U.S. PROBLEMS WITH CARICOM, DEPT SHOULD
BE AWARE THAT BARBADOS AND OTHER STATES TO WHICH THIS EMBASSY
ACCREDITED HAVE VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE AGAINST
IMPORTATION OF FOODSTUFFS, MANY OF WHICH AFFECT TRADE WITH
U.S. THESE RANGE FROM OUTRIGHT BAN (IN BARBADOS), FOR EXAMPLE,
ON WHOLE DRESSED POULTRY TO QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON VARIOUS
FOODSTUFFS SUCH AS POULTRY PARTS, CERTAIN FRUITS AND CANNED
VEGETABLES. OTHER ISLAND TERRITORIES HAVE SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS
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IN FORCE. ALSO, BARBADOS HAS FOR SOME TIME BANNED IMPORT OF

FRESH PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS FROM U.S. ON RATHER DUBIOUS JUSTIFICATION OF KEEPING BARBADOS FREE FROM HOG CHOLERA.

3. WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF WINDWARD/LEEWARD LDC'S AND POSSIBLY OTHERS ARE CONSIDERING ISSUE OF WHETHER TO SEEK INCLUSION IN U.S. COTTON TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM. CDB FROM TIME TO TIME ASKS EMBASSY FOR ADVICE ON THIS MATTER AND WE HAVE RESPONDED IN LOW KEY THAT THOSE CONCERNED MIGHT USEFULLY DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH U.S. CONTACTS IN TEXTILE TRADE, WHILE POINTING OUT THAT LACK OF QUOTA NOT NECESSARILY DISADVANTAGEOUS.

4. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM RECENTLY CONCLUDED ACP/EEC JAMAICA CONFERENCE, IT DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY THAT EEC WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL REVENUE PREFERENCES IN EXCHANGE FOR CARICOM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (REFTEL PARA 3(B)(1)).

5. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT SOME POINT TO SUBMIT PROBLEM INVENTORIES (U.S.-CARICOM AND VICE VERSA) TO CARICOM MEMBERS FOR FURTHER COMMENT. THIS WOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP TO BRIDGETOWN MEETING AND WOULD BE USEFUL REVIEW FOR CARICOM MEMBERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVENTORY DATA, TRADE COMPLAINTS, TRADE CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS, POULTRY PRODUCTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRIDGE01359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740211-0528
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740880/aaaacqpt.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 165350
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAY 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVENTORY OF CARICOM TRADE PROBLEMS
TAGS: ETRD, BB, US, CARICOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005